

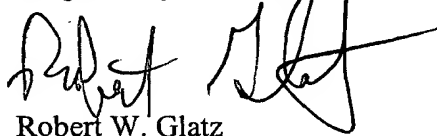
In re: Christiaan Radelet
International Appl. No. PCT/GB00/01504
International Filing Date: April 18, 2000
Page 7

REMARKS

Please enter this amendment prior to the calculation of the filing fee. The above amendments are made to place the specification, including the claims, in a form consistent with United States practice. The amendments to Claims 1-20 do not change the scope of the claims previously pending before the PCT, nor are they made for purposes related to patentability, but are merely style changes.

Applicants note that the amendments to Claims 1-20 above are based on the claims as they stood at the time of issuance of the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) completed September 13, 2001, a copy of which is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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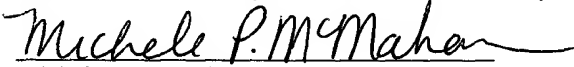
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Michele P. McMahan

Date of Signature: October 24, 2001
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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, at line 1 (after the title), please insert the following text:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a National Phase application of PCT/GB00/01504 filed on April 18, 2000 and published in English, which claims priority from Application GB 9909618.2 filed on April 26, 1999 and Application GB 9914752.2 filed on June 24, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, at line 5 (between the first and second paragraph (before "Optical fibres")), please insert the following centered text:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

On page 3, at line 28 (before "According to one aspect") please insert the following centered text:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

On page 9, at line 13 (before "Various embodiments"), please insert the following centered text:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

On page 10, at line 7 (before the phrase "Referring first"), please insert the following centered text:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS--

On page 15, at line 24, please insert the following:

-- The foregoing is illustrative of the present invention and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. Although a few exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as

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defined in the claims. In the claims, means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents but also equivalent structures. Therefore, it is to be understood that the foregoing is illustrative of the present invention and is not to be construed as limited to the specific embodiments disclosed, and that modifications to the disclosed embodiments, as well as other embodiments, are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract at page 21 with the following Abstract:

--A CLOSURE CASING
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
[ABSTRACT]

A closure casing [(11)] has two co-operating closure members [(12, 13, 17, 18)] defining an enclosed space between them when in a juxtaposed [closure] closed position. [Means are] A clamp is provided [for holding] that holds the closure members [(12, 13)] together in the [closure] closed position, [, such means comprising] the clamp includes at least one over-centre or toggle clamp mechanism [(26)], one part [(28)] of which passes through openings [(21)] in the closure members [(17, 18)] which are aligned when the closure members [(17, 18)] are in the [said] [closure] closed position, to engage a face of the closure member [(18)] remote from [the other] a second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)]. The [other] second part [(27)] is turnable between a clamped position and a release position. At least one [(18)] of the closure members [(17, 18)] has a resilient element [(24)] engageable by a third part [(28)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] and operable to apply a resilient resistance to the clamping movement to hold the clamp mechanism [(26)] in [its locking] the clamped position.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims with the following.

1. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] comprising [having]:

two co-operating closure members [(12, 13, 17, 18) comprising] having half-shell structures and having cable entry ports and defining an enclosed space between [them] the closure members when in a juxtaposed [closure] closed position; [, the closure being provided with holding means for holding]

a clamp that holds the closure members [(12, 13)] together in the [closure] closed position; [,characterized in that the holding means comprise]

wherein the clamp comprises at least one over-centre or toggle clamp mechanism [(26)], [one] a first part [(28)] of which passes through openings [(21)] in the closure members [(17, 18)] which are aligned when the closure members [(17, 18)] are in the [said closure] closed position, and engages a face of one of the closure [member (18)] members remote from [the other] a second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)], which [other] second part [(27)] is turnable between a clamped position in which tension is applied to the [said one] first part [(28)] and a release position.

2. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein at least one [(18)] of the closure members [(17, 18)] has a resilient element [(24)] engageable by [a part (28) of the] said toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] and operable to apply a resilient resistance to [the clamping movement thereof whereby to] hold the clamp mechanism [(26)] in [its locking] the clamped position when the toggle clamp mechanism is moved [thereto] to the clamped position against [the] a resistance exerted by the resilient element [(24)].

3. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 2[,

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characterized in that] wherein the resilient element [(24) is] comprises a laminar resilient strip overlying a surface portion of the casing.

4. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 3[, characterized in that the] wherein said closure members [(12, 13) are] comprise co-operating half shells having respective flanges [(17, 18)] around perimetral rims thereof, which rims are brought together when the casing is closed, and [in that the] wherein said resilient element [(24)] comprises a strip and/or stringer lying along the length of at least one of the flanges [flange (18)].

5. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the flanges [(17, 18)] have a cavity therein adjacent the openings in the closure members [or each opening (21) through which passes the said one part (28) of the toggle clamp mechanism (26) and] across which [the] said resilient strip [(24)] spans.

6. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to Claim 1, wherein [any preceding claim, characterized in that] the [said one] first part [(28)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] has a transverse projection [(29) for engaging] configured to engage the face of the closure member [(18)] remote from the [other] second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)].

7. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to [any of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that] Claim 6 wherein there are a plurality of openings [(21)] in the flanges [(17, 18)] of the [said] closure members [(12, 13)] and a plurality of toggle clamp mechanisms [(26)] spaced around at least part of [the] a periphery of the closure members [(12, 13)].

8. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 6,

[characterised in that the] wherein said transverse projection [(29) of the said one part (28) of the toggle clamp mechanism (26) is] comprises a hooked end [thereof for engagement with the] of the first part configured to engage said face of the closure member [(18)] remote from the [other] second part [(27)] of the clamp mechanism [(26)].

9. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to [any preceding claim, characterized in that the] Claim 1 wherein said [other] second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] comprises a body portion having two parallel flanges [(33, 34)] with respective aligned openings or cavities [(37)] for receiving respective pivot pins [(30, 31)] of the [said one member (28)] first part such that the [said one member (28)] first part is located[, in use,] between the [said] two parallel flanges [(33, 34)], and an operating tab and/or lever [(38) which] that lies substantially parallel to [the] a surface of one of the co-operating closure [member (17)] members when the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] is in [its locking] the clamped position.

10. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 9, [characterised in that the] wherein said body portion of the [said other] second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] has a face [(40)] extending generally transversely of the operating tab and/or lever [(38)] and serving as a release member against which[, in use,] is applied a force to release the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] from [its locking] the clamped position.

11. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to Claim 1 [any preceding claim, characterized in that it has] wherein there are a plurality of toggle clamps [(26)] spaced along at least part of [the] a perimeter [thereof] of the casing and further comprising a sealing member [(20)] located inwardly of the toggle clamps [(26) for sealing] that seal the interior volume of the casing [(11) when closed] in the clamped position.

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12. (Amended) A closure casing according to Claim 1, further comprising [any preceding claim, characterised in that there are provided] means [(102, 103, 100, 104)] to resist [the] release of the [or each] toggle [claim] clamp mechanism [(26)].

13. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the means [(102, 103)] to resist [the] release of the [or each] toggle clamp mechanism [(26) act] acts to resist movement of the [said other] second part [(27)] of the [or each] toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] from its clamped to its release position.

14. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 12[, characterized in that] wherein the means to resist [the] release of the [or each] toggle clamp mechanism [(26) act to resist the] resists withdrawal of the [said one] first part [(28) of the or each toggle clamp (26)] through the openings [(21)] in the closure members [(17, 18)].

15. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to [any of claims 12 to] Claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the means [(102, 103; 100, 104)] to resist release of the [or each] toggle clamp mechanism comprises [(26) comprise] at least one aperture [(100; 103)] in a member of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] engageable by cooperating removable obstruction means [102; 104)] for obstructing removal of the toggle clamp mechanism from the openings.

16. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according [to any of claims 2 to] Claim 15, [characterized in that the] wherein said at least one resilient element is relatively displaceable with respect to [the] an adjacent one of the closure [member (18)] members so as to reduce the effective dimensions of the openings [(21, 25)] through which the [said one] first part [(28)] of the toggle clamp mechanism [(26)]

passes whereby to obstruct withdrawal thereof.

17. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 16[, characterized in that the] wherein said resilient element [(24)] is retained in a channel which allows longitudinal movement [thereof] of the resilient element.

18. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 17, [characterized in that the] wherein said channel includes at least a part which is not rectilinear so as to apply stress to the resilient element when the channel and resilient element are in a juxtaposed position.

19. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to [any preceding claim, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the [over-centre or] toggle clamp mechanism [(26)] has means [(106)] for engagement by a tool whereby to assist in turning the [said other] second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism.

20. (Amended) A closure casing [(11)] according to claim 19, [characterized in that the] wherein said means for engagement by a tool [comprise] comprises at least one cavity [(106)] in the [said other] second part [(27)] of the toggle clamp mechanism.

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